

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, COCCHIARELLA, COONEY, ELLINGSON, ELLIOTT, FRANKLIN, GALLUS,
HARRINGTON, HAWKS, JUNEAU, LARSON, LASLOVICH, MANGAN, MOSS, PEASE, RASER, ROUSH,
RYAN, SCHMIDT, SMITH, SQUIRES, TESTER, TROPILA, WEINBERG, WHEAT, WILSON, WISEMAN,
BECKER, BERGREN, BIXBY, BRANAE, BUZZAS, CAFERRO, CALLAHAN, CAMPBELL, CLARK,
COHENOUR, DICKENSON, DOWELL, DRISCOLL, EATON, FACEY, FUREY, GALLIK, GALVIN-HALCRO,
GOLIE, GRINDE, GROESBECK, GUTSCHE, HAMILTON, HARRIS, HENRY, HINER, JACOBSON, JAYNE,
JENT, JOPEK, KEANE, LENHART, LINDEEN, MCALPIN, MUSGROVE, NOONAN, PARKER, SESSO,
SMALL-EASTMAN, VILLA, WANZENRIED, WINDHAM, WINDY BOY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE SOUND, LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR
SOCIAL SECURITY AND TO AVOID PRIVATIZING THE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Social Security Program has provided retirement benefits to millions of Americans for
70 years; and

WHEREAS, this program has historically been sound and has provided adequate incomes to keep
Montana's seniors out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, approximately 162,000 Montanans receive Social Security benefits; and

WHEREAS, Montanans receive Social Security benefits of more than \$127 million each month; and

WHEREAS, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has stated that if no changes are made to the
current system, Social Security will be able to rely on its trust funds for nearly four decades; and

WHEREAS, many times throughout the past 70 years, the United States Congress has reviewed and
reformed the Social Security Act; and

WHEREAS, each of those reviews has maintained the Act's basic structure as an insurance program
and not an investment program; and

WHEREAS, Montanans were integral in developing the original Act 70 years ago; and

WHEREAS, as with any long-term program or institution, vigilance and prudent adjustments in both
revenue and expenditures are necessary to protect the Social Security Program's fiscal viability; and

WHEREAS, any attempt to privatize Social Security now could add trillions of dollars to the national debt

1 and could thus require a reduction in current and future benefits.

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3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

5 That the United States Congress be urged to:

6 (1) retain Social Security as an insurance fund;

7 (2) make whatever conservative adjustments are necessary to ensure the solvency of the trust funds
8 well beyond 2040; and

9 (3) avoid privatization of the Social Security Program.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the President
11 of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United
12 States Senate, and each member of Montana's Congressional Delegation.

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